(c) the date by which it is likely to be constituted and whether the Council will have experts giving representation to various interests;

(d) whether the certification by the Quality Council of India will have global recognition;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether after the constitution of the Council, the Bureau of the Indian Standards will become part of the proposed Council; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Government has decided to constitute the Quality Council of India (QCI), as an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act. The Council will have representation from Government Departments and organisations involved with Quality Assurance, apex bodies of Industry including the SSI sector, exporters, consumer bodies, accredited certification bodies, Star Trading Houses, recipients of Quality Award, etc.

The Council will have in its fold:

1. National Accreditation Board for Products and Quality Systems Certification.

2. National Accreditation Board for Quality Management, Personnel and Training Organisations.

3. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABTCL).

Action has been initiated to get the QCI registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act.

The QCI will provide the institutional framework to help in mutual recognition with other international and ntional accreditation bodies.

(f) and (g) BIS is expected to be represented on the QCI and will have a specific role within the framework of the QCI.

Scheme to Subsidise Diesel Oil

2136. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has any scheme to subsidise diesel oil for the fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) number of people that availed of it in 1995-96; and

(d) other steps being taken by Government to assist marine foods exports from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. MPEDA has been operating a scheme for reimbursing a part of cost of high speed diesel consumed by deep sea fishing vessels. Moreover, it is not exclusively for the fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh. However, operation of the scheme has been kept in abeyance w.e.f. 1st March, 1996.

(b) For availing benefit under the scheme, owner of a vessel should be registered with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) as an exporter. The vessel should also be registered with MPEDA. Apart from this, atleast 25% of the catch of the vessel in terms of value is required to be exported. The quantum of assistance admissible relates to actual fuel consumption multiplied by Rs. 1600 per K.L. or assessed fuel consumption multiplied by Rs. 1600 per K.L. or 10% of the f.o.b. value of exports from the catches of the vessel, whichever is the lowest.

(c) During 1995-96, 50 vessels of 22 companies availed an assistance amounting to Rs. 200.00 lakhs.

(d) The Government is taking the following steps through MPEDA to assist the marine products industry which in-

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cludes the State of Andhra Pradesh as well:—

(i) Providing subsidy assistance for procuring various equipment like improved plate freezer, refrigerated truck, upgradation of deficient cold storage, automatic flake/chip etc.

(ii) Providing subsidy for setting up quality control laboratories attached to processing plants.

(iii) Providing financial assistance for encouraging modification of fishing vessels for exploitation of under-exploited resources as well as to encourage on board processing.

(iv) Providing financial assistance for encouraging acquisition of the sea-food processing machinery for production of value added items.

(v) Implementation a scheme for participating in the equity of companies for setting up projects in the field of deep sea fishing, production of value added products and aquaculture.

World Bank Loan for Development of Tea Industry

2137. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought a loan of Rs. 2216 crore from the World Bank for the development of tea industry;

(b) if so, the objective of the said loan;

(c) whether it is a fact that to increase the production of tea by 200 to 300 million kgs, a massive investment to the tune of around Rs. 3341 crores is required, for the purpose of increasing export of tea; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the action initiated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for financial assistance of Rs. 2216.5 crores for development of tea industry in India has been submitted to the World Bank.

(c) The Project prepared by Tea Board proposes an investment of Rs. 3341.5 crores on various items like Plantation Development, Market Development, Research & Development and Human Resource Development. The proposal envisages progressive increase in production of tea, reaching 234.7 million kgs. in the fifth year to meet increasing domestic demand for tea and to sustain exports.

(d) A four member study team from the World Bank visited India during May June, 1996 to make an assessment of the problems/bottlenecks faced by the tea industry in India. The Study Team, after discussions with different institutions and preliminary data analysis has identified issues which are to be addressed as a part of the project. Pursuant to discussions with the Study Team, five Working Groups have been constituted to make an in-depth analysis of the issues and various aspects of the project. The Bank mission would be visiting India again around November, 1996 for further interactions.

Manufacture of Wrist Watches

2138. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units engaged in manufacture of wrist watches (both Quartz and mechanical) in the country in the year 1995-96;

(b) the sanctioned/registered/installed production capacity of these units;

(c) the production of wrist watches (Quartz and mechanical) in the year 1995-96;

(d) the gap between the sanctioned capacity and the actual production;

(e) whether Government are taking any steps to encourage these units to utilise their due idle capacity;

(f) if so, the measure taken in this regard; and